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LEGISLATIVE LIAISON

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file HPSCI
7 May 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: DDI Rep/Office of Legislative Liaison

FROM: [] ALA/MCD/CA/Honduras

SUBJECT: Memorandum for the Record Regarding Briefing
of HPSCI Staff Members on 1 May 1984

1. [] ALA Political Analyst on Honduras, briefed HPSCI staffers Dick Giza and Mike O'Neill on events leading up to the forced resignation of General Alvarez and its repercussions. [] was accompanied by [] of the Office of Legislative Liaison.

2. The staffers were concerned by the divergence in press analysis of the Alvarez removal--which characterized it as a military coup--and CIA analysis which, in their view, attributed the ouster to civilian forces. They specifically mentioned the NID Special Analysis on Honduras which appeared on 24 April 1984. A second topic of interest was the quality of reporting on Honduras, specifically in reference to Embassy coverage. The briefing concluded with questions on the state of democracy in Honduras and prospects for further development of the democratic system.

3. On the first point, [] corrected the misperception that CIA believed that civilians were wholly responsible for the action against Alvarez and reviewed the evidence to date which indicates civilian-military collusion in removing the General. Additional analysis was provided on the reaction within the military and probable effects on relations with the US. [] characterized reporting from all US agencies in Honduras as inadequate in coverage of internal politics and the civilian-military relationship. Finally, Ms. [] explained that the development of democracy in Honduras

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would take time. The system is fragile, subject to continued scrutiny by the military, and dependent on the maturation of political institutions, such as the legislature and parties, into representative bodies.